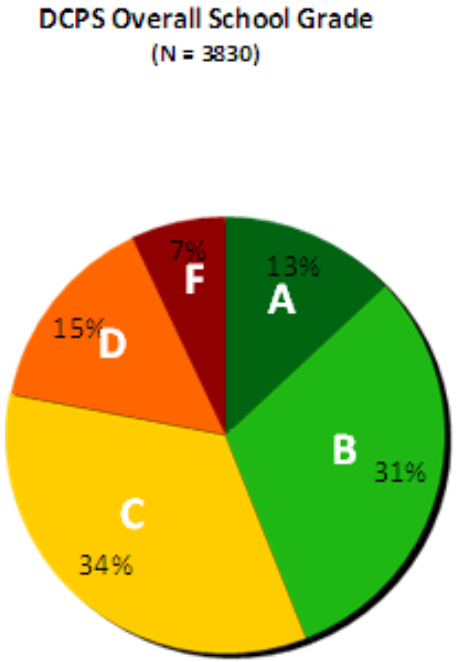
2007-08 District of Columbia Schools Student Survey
DCPS

We wish to thank all of the students from DCPS who participated in the 2007-08 DC Student Survey for their time and effort. In June, surveys were administered to students in 7th to 12th grade. There was a 31% response rate. Survey questions were included to address areas of interest to school stakeholders including students, DCPS and central staff. Of the diverse student body surveyed at DCPS, 57% were *female* and 44% were *male*. The demographic breakdown of the respondents included 84% that self identified as *Black*, 12% that identified as *Hispanic*, and 4% that identified as *Other*. Additionally, 31% of the students surveyed have *Individual Education Plans* and 35% are *multilingual*. The first section of this report details the demographic information of student respondents and their overall opinion of their school. The following sections feature a summary of the responses based on the elements of the Effective Schools Framework followed by a breakdown of the responses into these categories.



Grade	Student Respondents	N Respondents
7th	18.4%	770
8th	19.3%	807
9th	16.5%	690
10th	15.4%	642
11th	8.8%	366
12th	11.5%	481
Unknown	10.0%	416
Total	100.0%	4179

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Demographics

Of the respondents, 57% were female and 44% were male. Eighty-four percent self identified as Black, 12% as Hispanic, and 4% Other.

Overall Satisfaction with Individual Schools

The majority of students surveyed were satisfied with their schools and the expectations set by their teachers. Similarly, the respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with the quality of education at their schools. The vast majority of respondents believed that their teachers were providing positive learning environments and that they provided help when necessary.

Perceptions of the Principals

Most respondents are satisfied with their principals and believe that they are managing the school well. Results showed that students believe principals were adequately involved with their schools.

Resources Available at Individual Schools

Most respondents reported their schools had enough computers and the appropriate software was installed. In general, students believed there was adequate access to the internet and printers but there were many students who disagreed that this technology was available in classrooms.

School Safety

The majority of students indicated their schools were safe. However, only 50% felt safe outside around their schools.

School Maintenance

Only 51% of respondents thought their schools were in good physical condition and 42% thought that their schools were clean.

Mutual Respect

The majority of students felt like there was mutual respect between students and teachers. Eighty-three percent of students had at least one adult at the school that they felt they could go to if something was wrong.

Discipline

Most students agreed everyone is expected to follow the rules. However, only 53% thought that discipline was equally implemented.

Student-School Interaction

The majority of students were engaged in school 94% reported they tried to do well in school. Eighty-seven percent thought about the consequences of their actions and 91% said they respected the differences between people.

How Well are DCPS Students Prepared

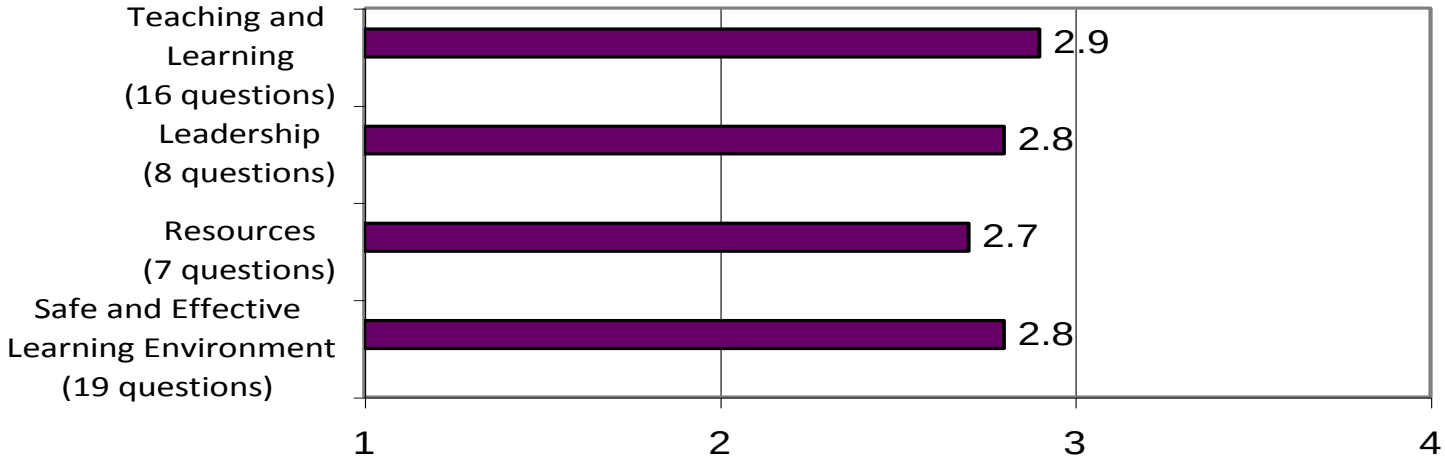
Although students reported knowing their grades in school, they did not know their results on the DC CAS. Almost half of the students (46%) reported having taken an SAT Prep class and over 90% believed they were on track to graduate from high school and knew the requirements to do so. Eighty-four percent indicated they plan to attend a 4-year college.

Extracurricular Activities

The activities students most frequently stated they would participate in included school sports, tutoring, career education, and community service/volunteering. The most commonly cited activities that students reported having participated in included school sports, tutoring, and SAT/AP test preparation.

Schools at a Glance

Individual questions were grouped into scales based on the DCPS Effective Schools Framework. Average ratings on the scales are provided below. Higher ratings indicate greater levels of student approval.



Teaching and Learning—Students reported standards were high and they received extra help when needed. However, many students felt they were not expected to take advanced classes and were not provided with advanced work when they knew the material being taught.

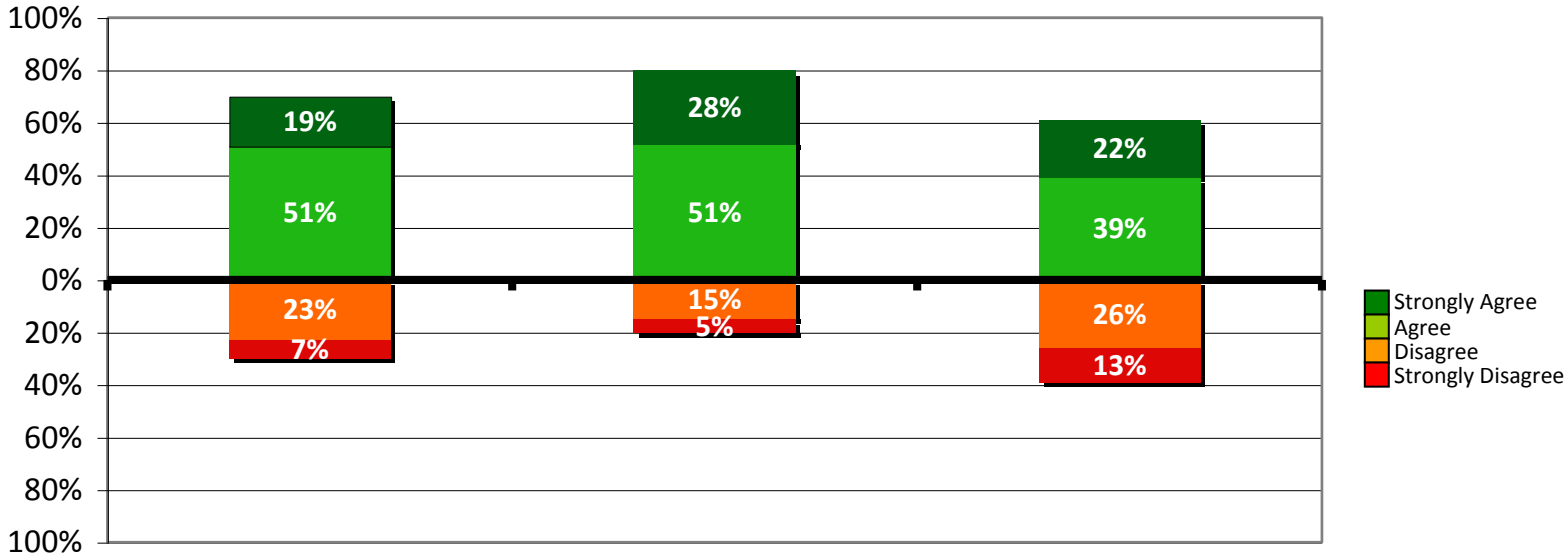
Leadership—Students felt their principals set high standards and shared their goals with the student body. However, a large percentage did not believe their principal asked students for their ideas.

Resources—Although most students indicated their schools had technological resources, many students strongly disagreed that technology was used in their classroom and felt they did not have easy access to printers.

Safe and Effective Learning Environment—Students reported there was an adult at school they could speak with if something was wrong and their teachers enforced the rules throughout school. They felt safe within their classrooms, though they do not feel safe outside of school.

Teaching and Learning

Does Instruction Enable Student Achievement?

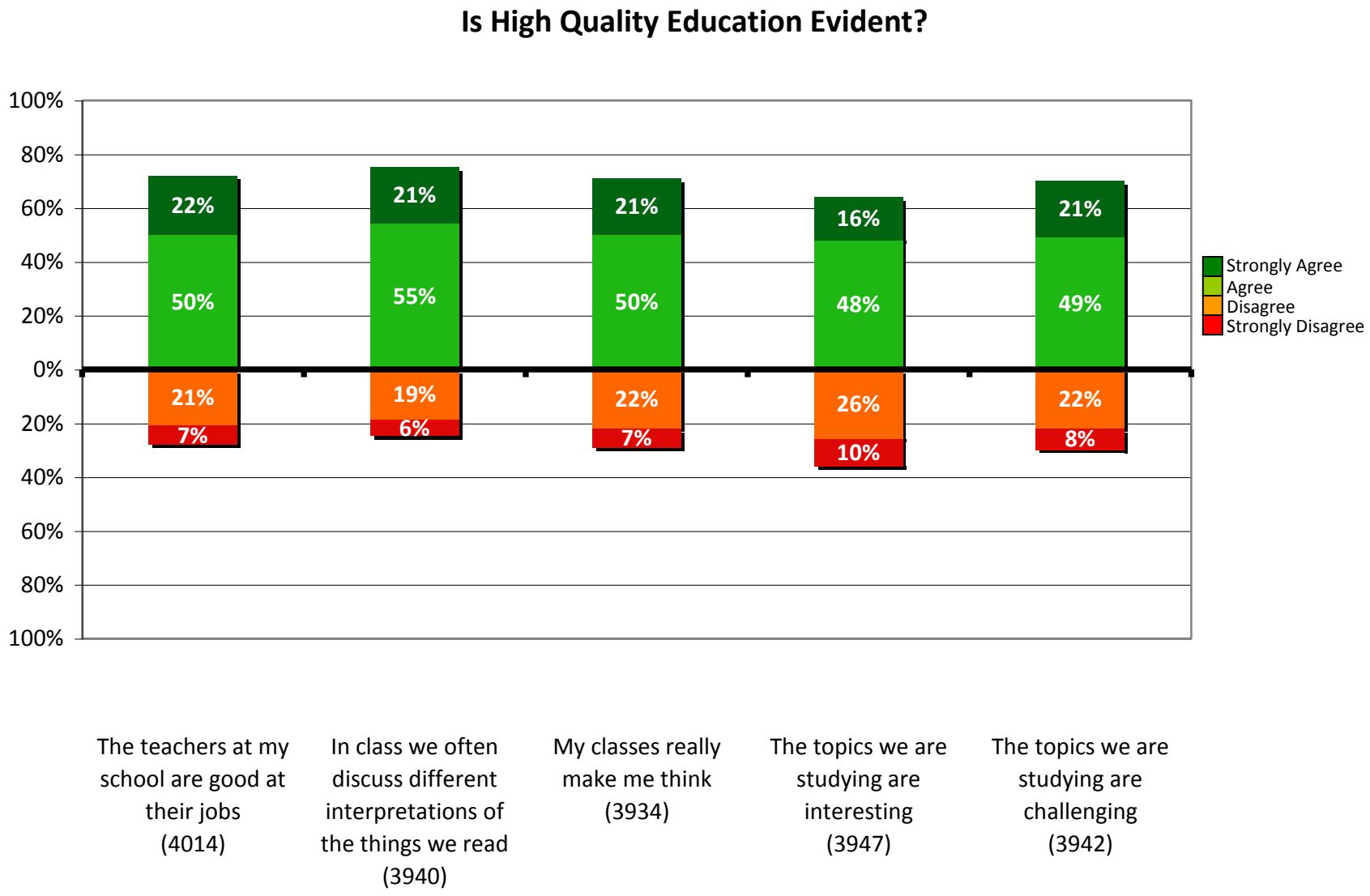


My school is on the right track for student achievement (3994)

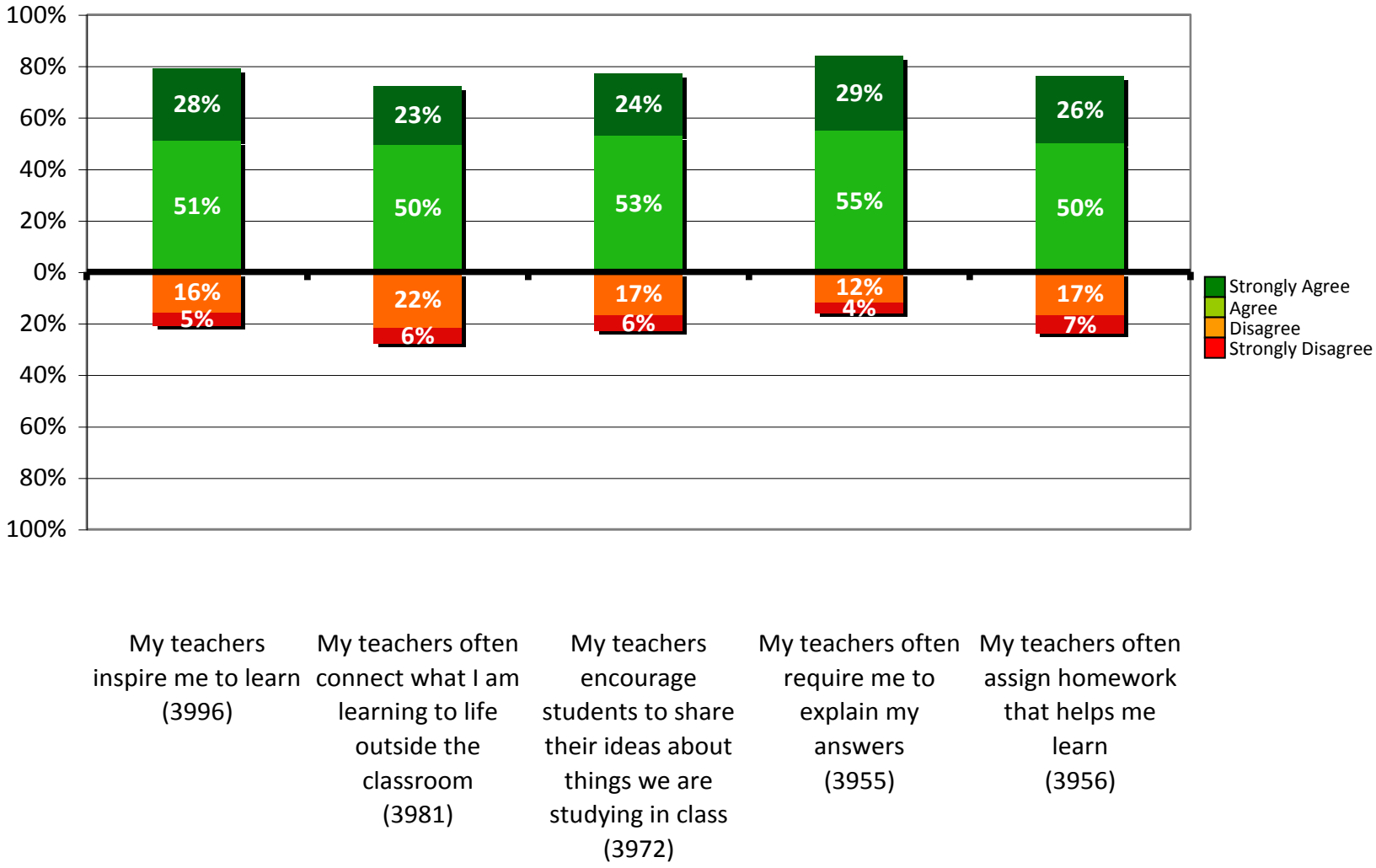
Teachers have set high standards for students (3993)

All students are expected to take advanced classes, such as honors, Advanced Placement or International Bacclaureate or classes that lead to professional certification (3897)

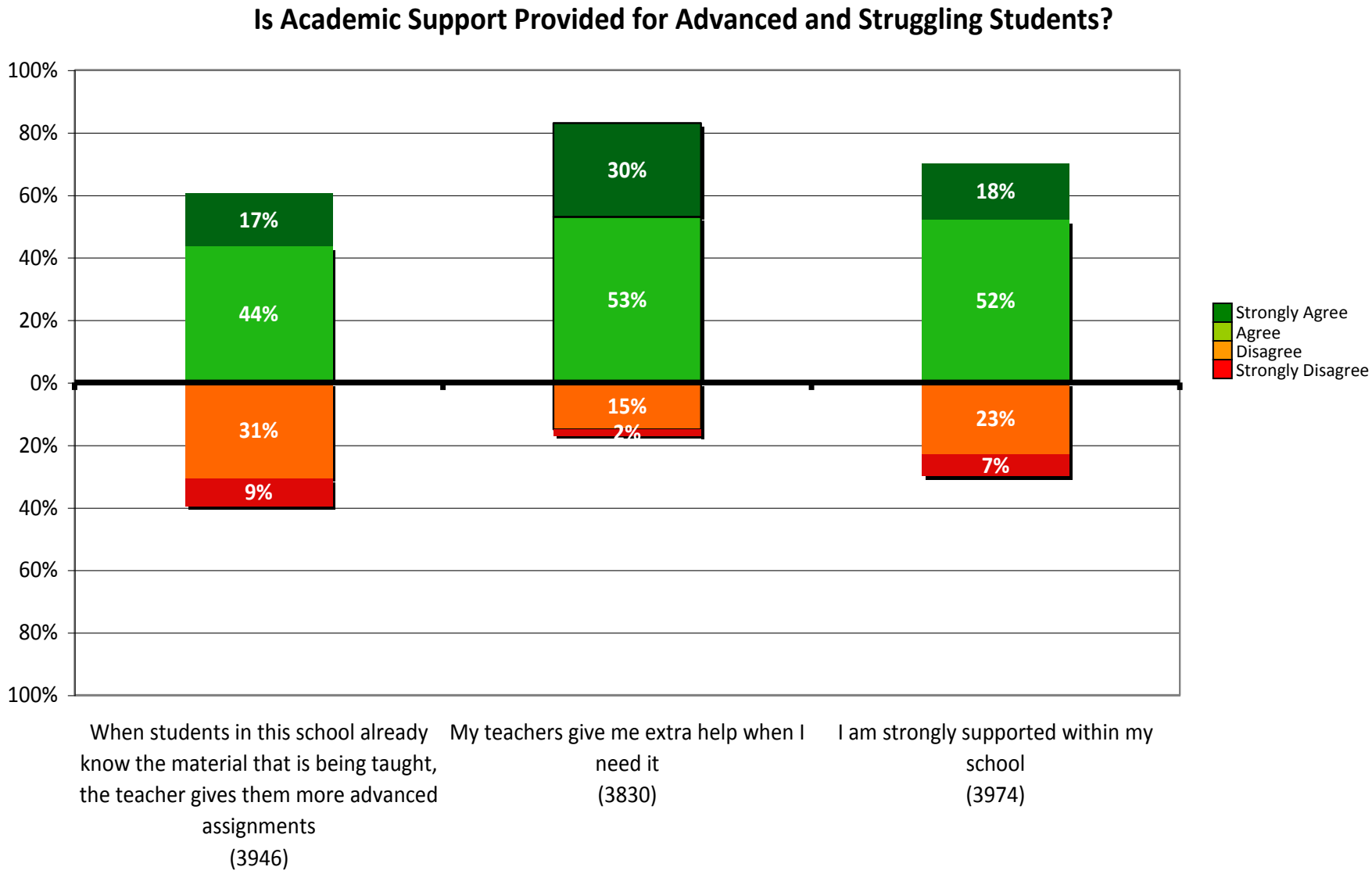
Teaching and Learning



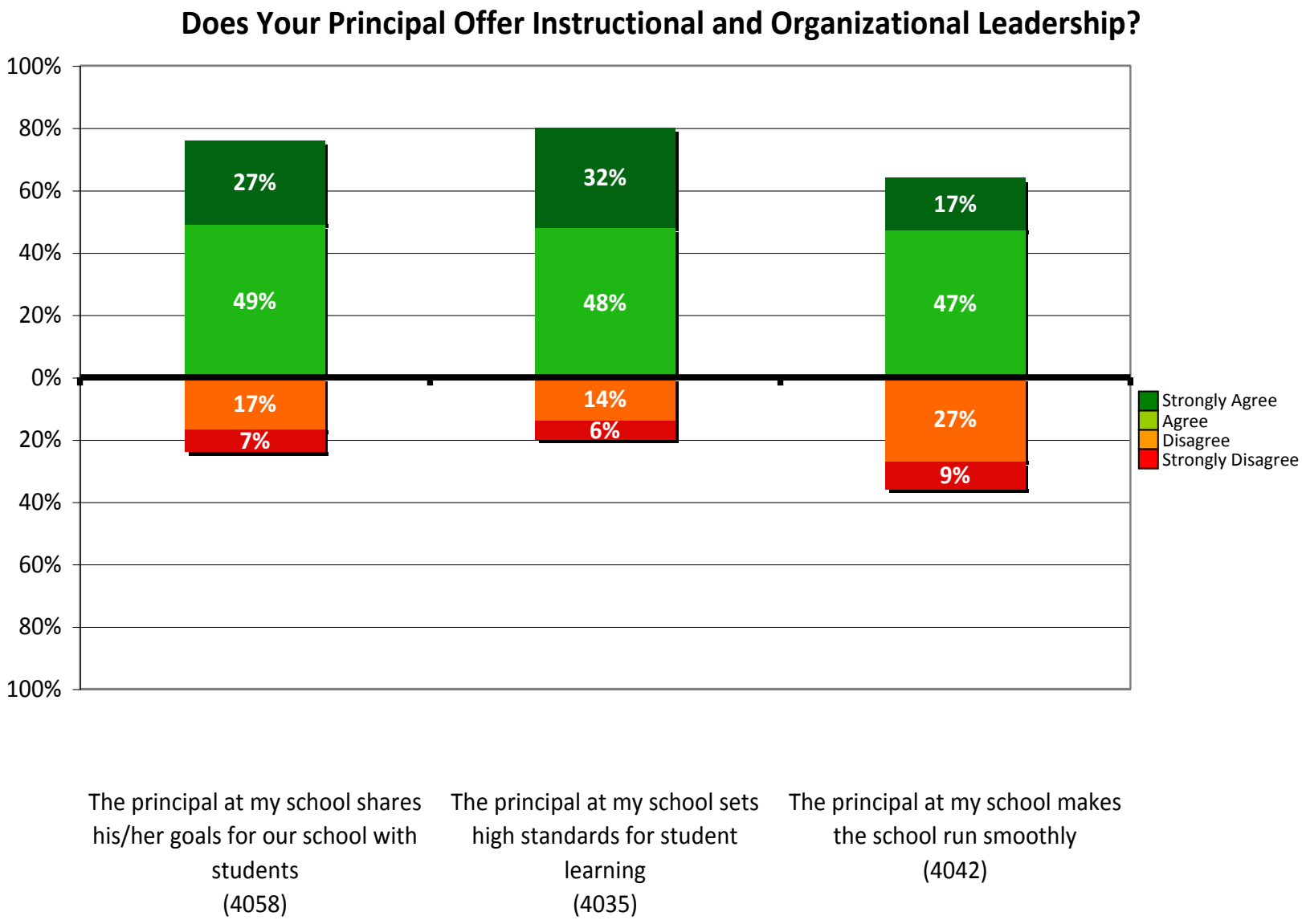
Do Teachers Foster a Positive Classroom Environment?



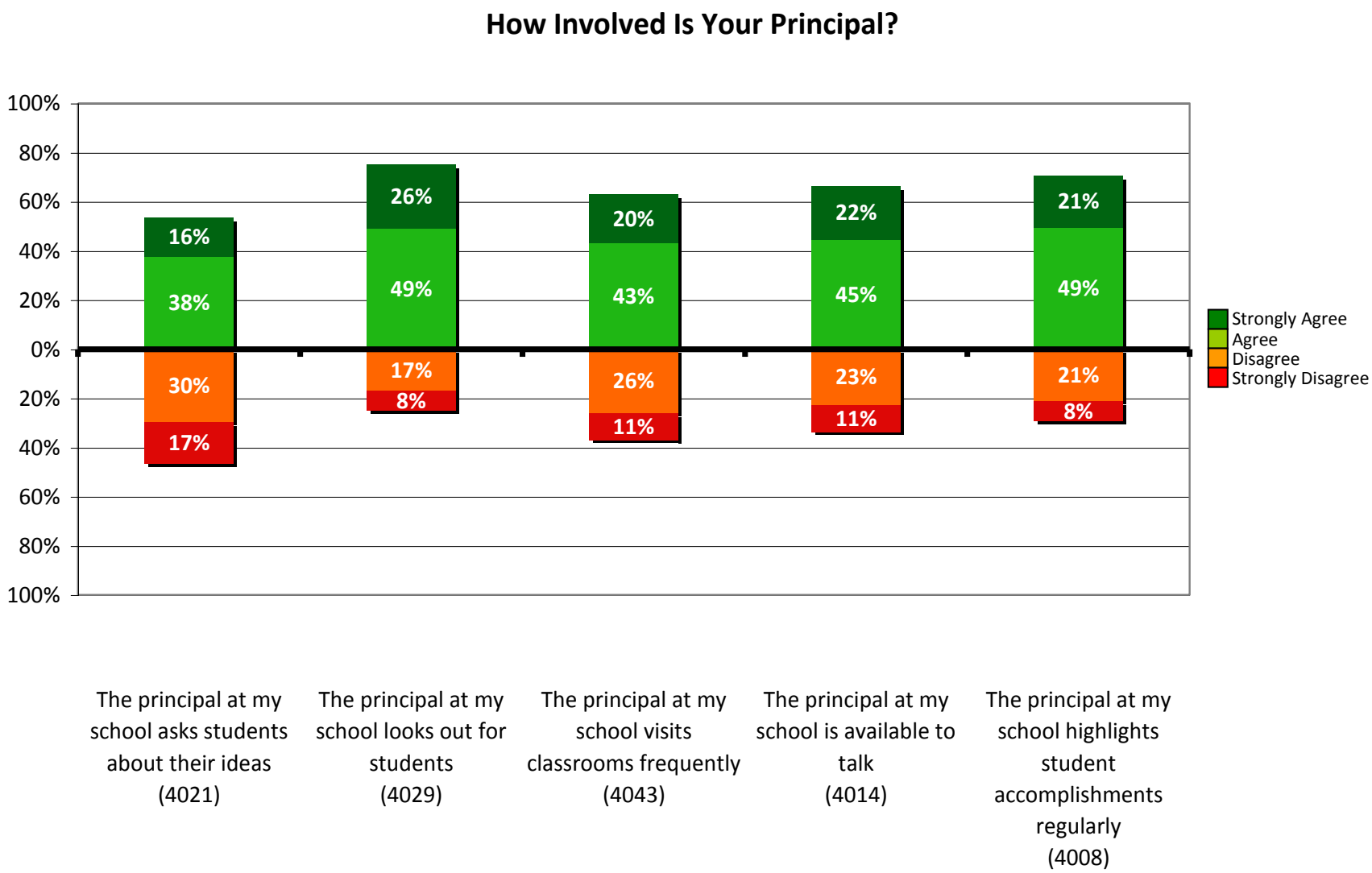
Teaching and Learning



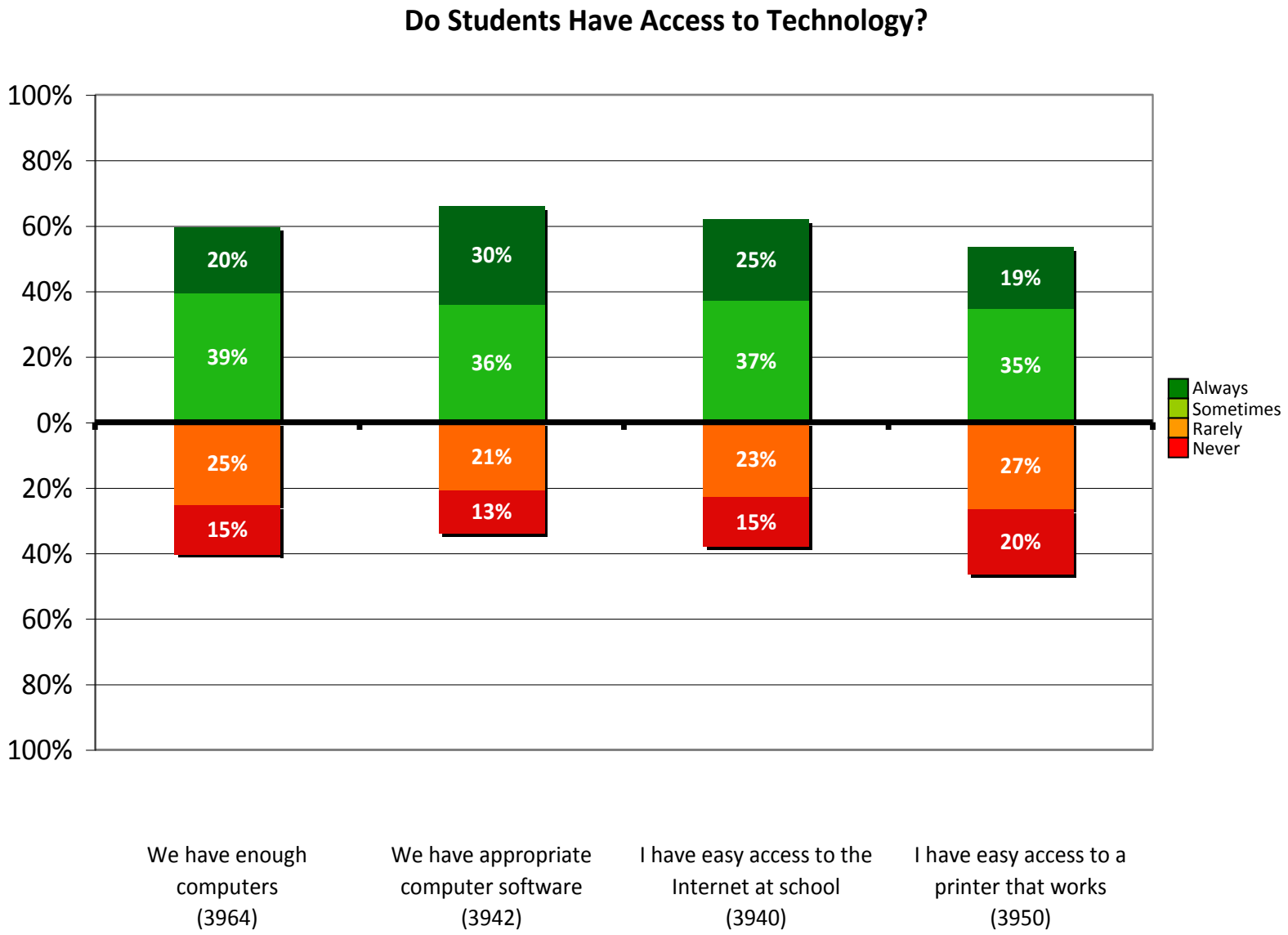
Leadership


Does Your Principal Offer Instructional and Organizational Leadership?
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
27%
49%
17%
7%
32%
48%
14%
6%
17%
47%
27%
9%
Strongly Agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree
The principal at my school shares his/her goals for our school with students (4058)
The principal at my school sets high standards for student learning (4035)
The principal at my school makes the school run smoothly (4042)

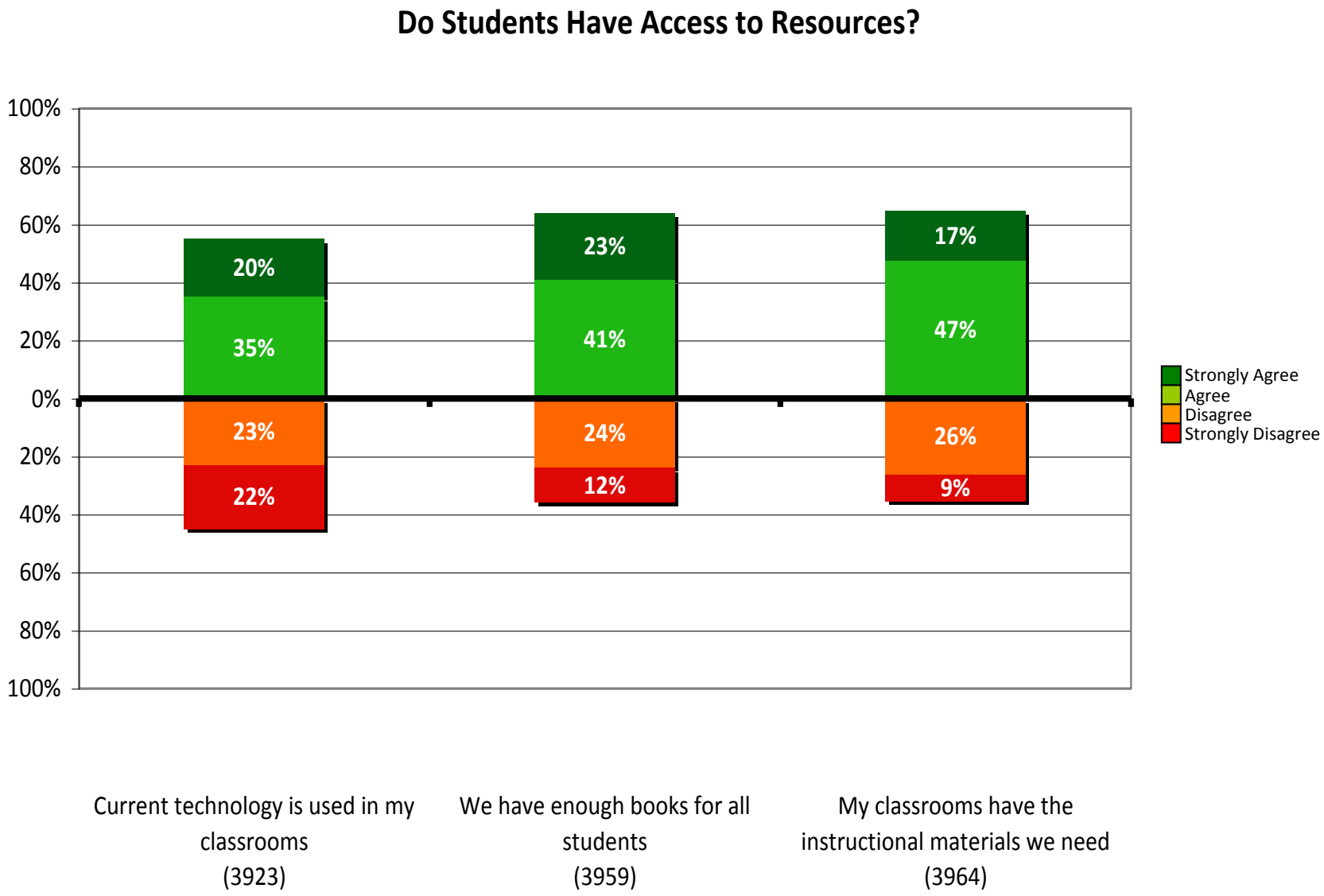
Leadership


How Involved Is Your Principal?
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
16%
38%
30%
17%
26%
49%
17%
8%
20%
43%
26%
11%
22%
45%
23%
11%
21%
49%
21%
8%
Strongly Agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree
The principal at my school asks students about their ideas (4021)
The principal at my school looks out for students (4029)
The principal at my school visits classrooms frequently (4043)
The principal at my school is available to talk (4014)
The principal at my school highlights student accomplishments regularly (4008)

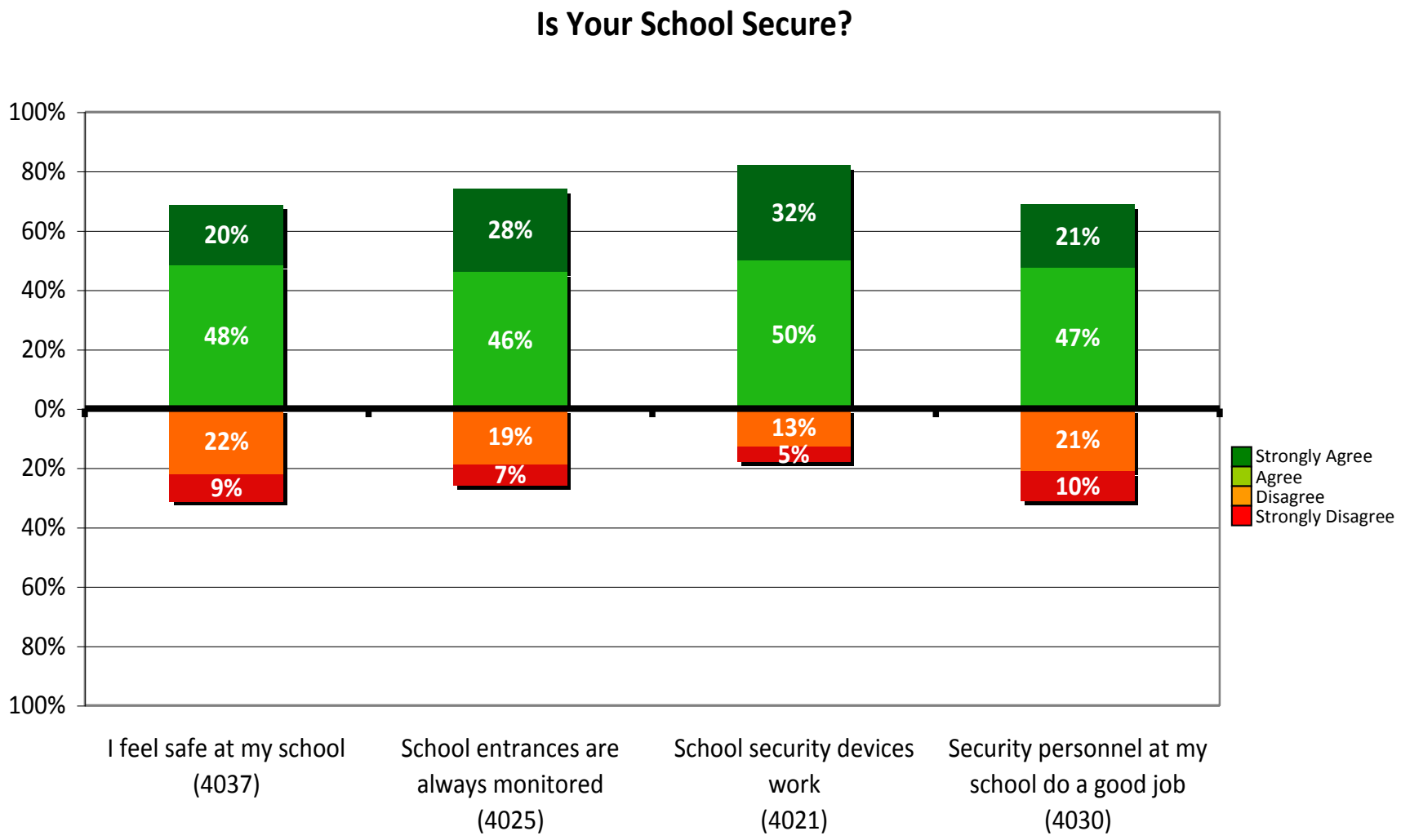
Resources


Do Students Have Access to Technology?
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
20%
39%
25%
15%
30%
36%
21%
13%
25%
37%
23%
15%
19%
35%
27%
20%
Always
Sometimes
Rarely
Never
We have enough computers (3964)
We have appropriate computer software (3942)
I have easy access to the Internet at school (3940)
I have easy access to a printer that works (3950)

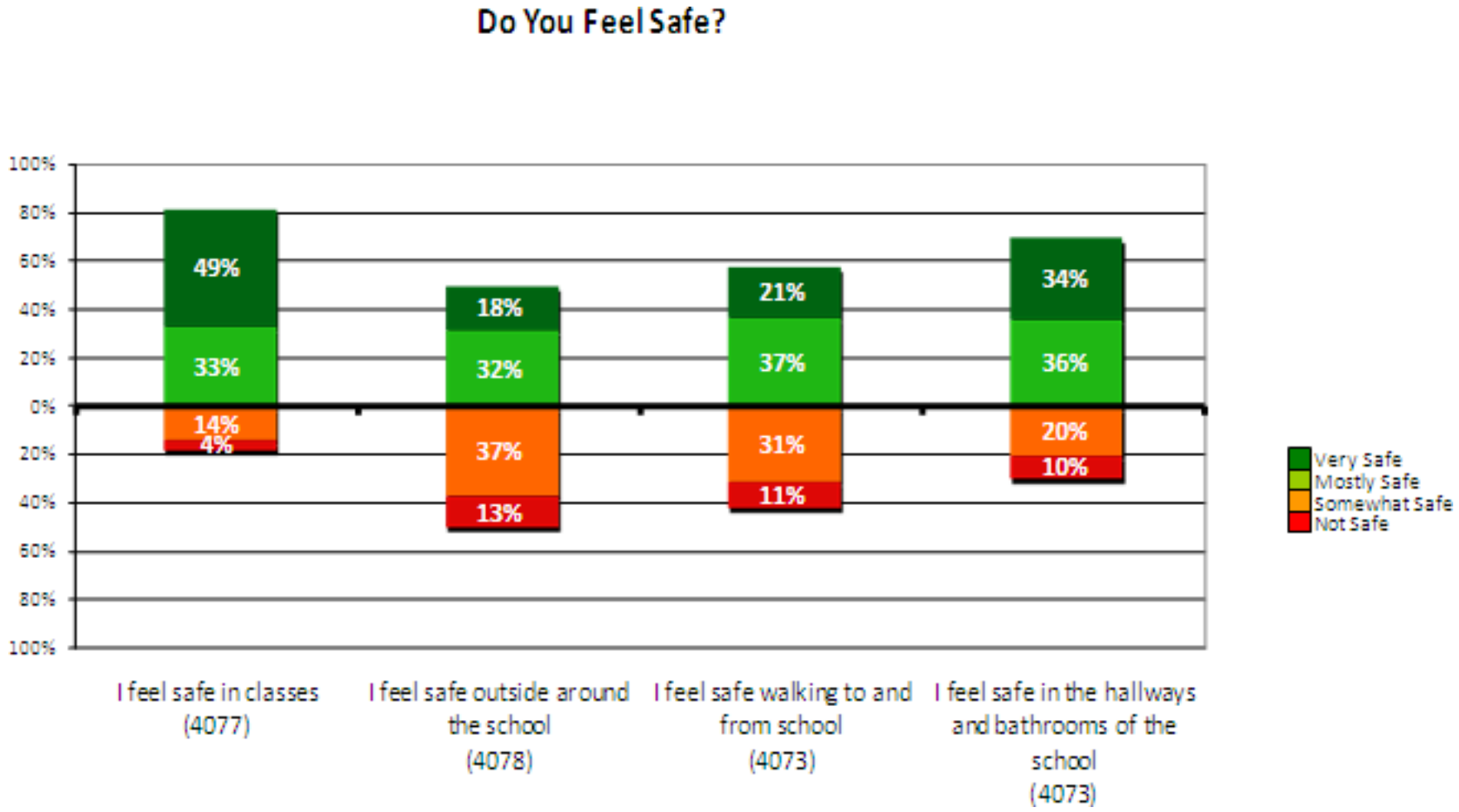
Resources


Do Students Have Access to Resources?
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
20%
35%
23%
22%
23%
41%
24%
12%
17%
47%
26%
9%
Strongly Agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree
Current technology is used in my classrooms (3923)
We have enough books for all students (3959)
My classrooms have the instructional materials we need (3964)

Safe and Effective Learning Environment

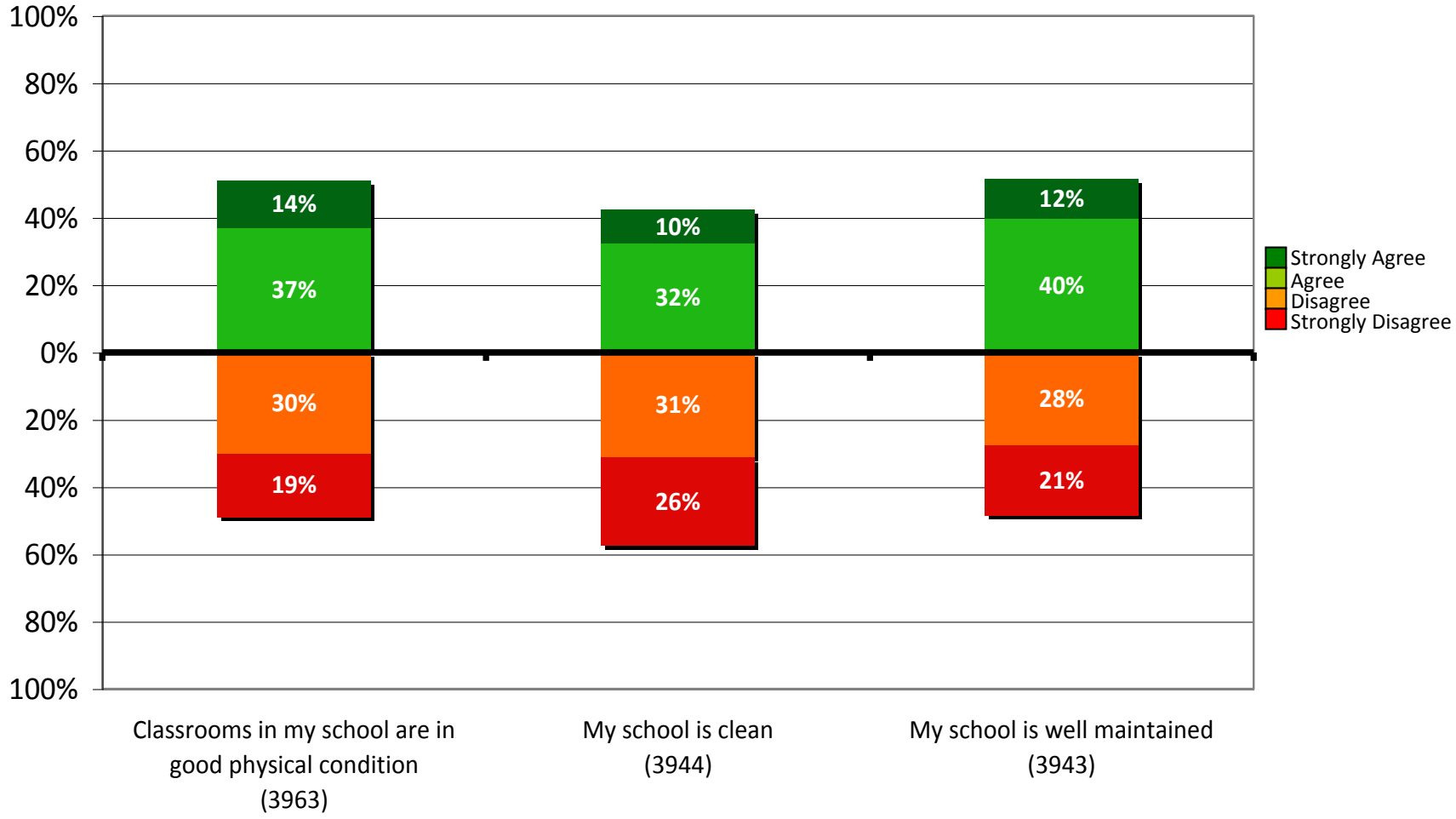


Safe and Effective Learning Environment



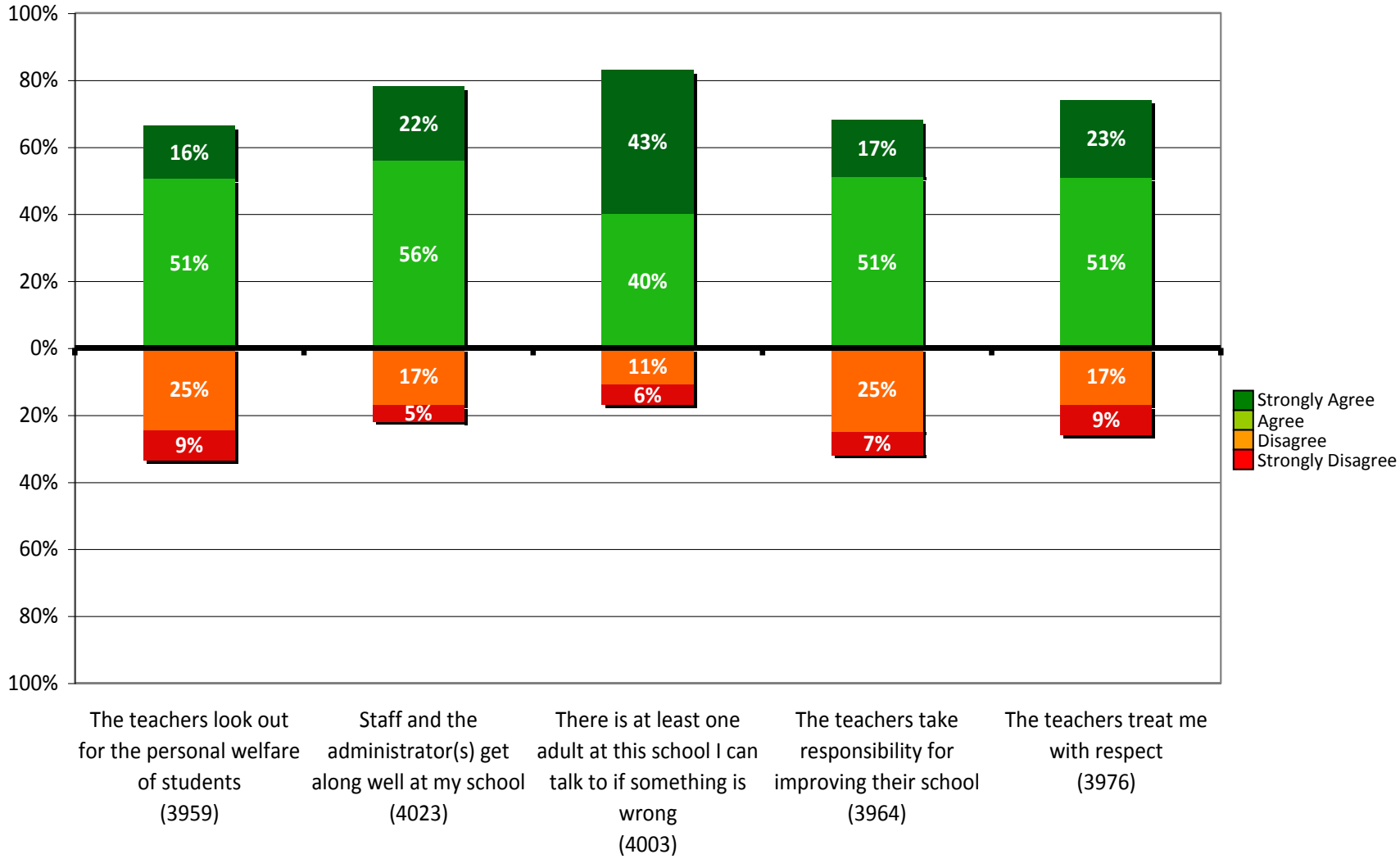
Safe and Effective Learning Environment

Is Your School Well Maintained?



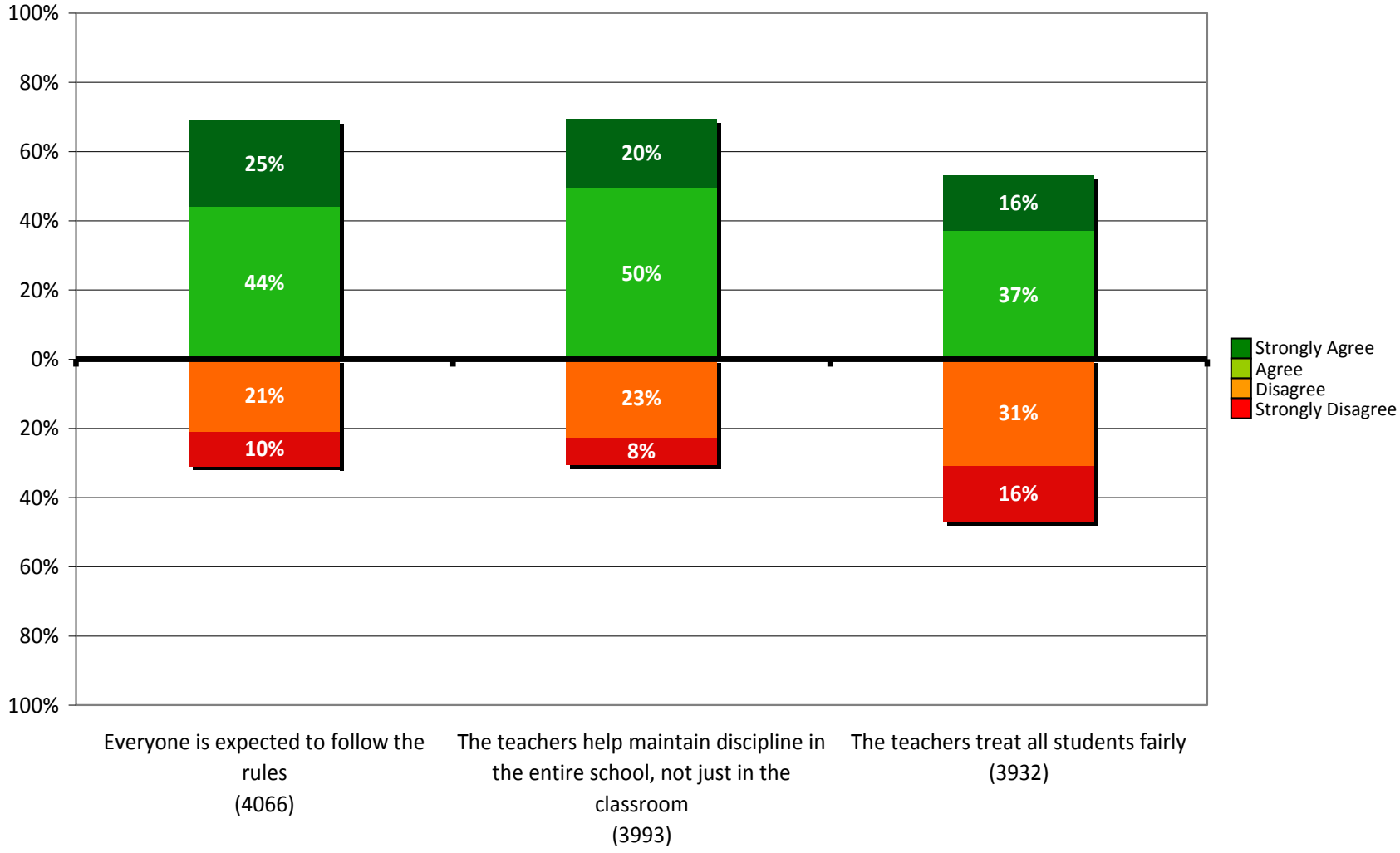
Safe and Effective Learning Environment

Do the Staff Foster Mutual Respect?

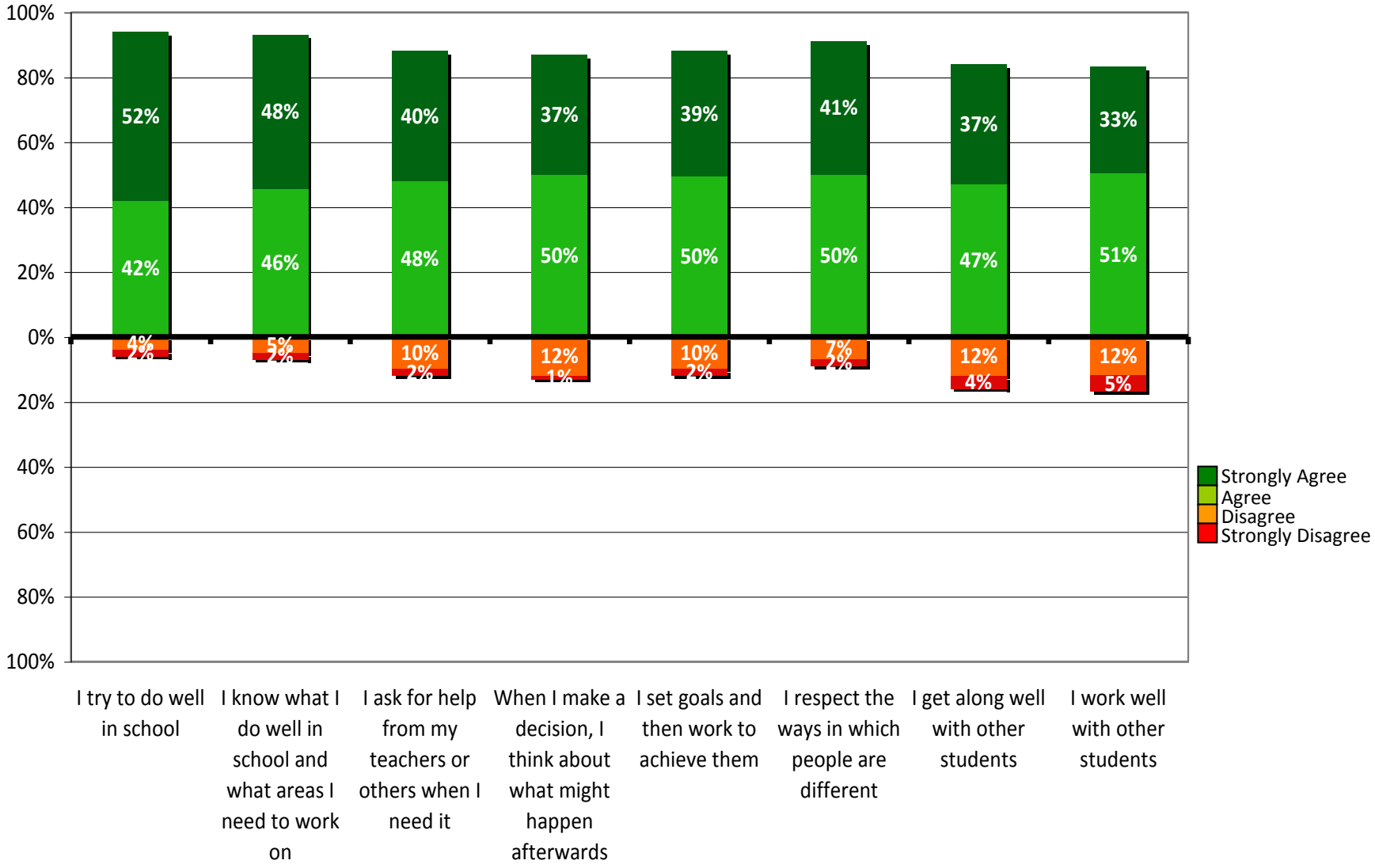


Safe and Effective Learning Environment

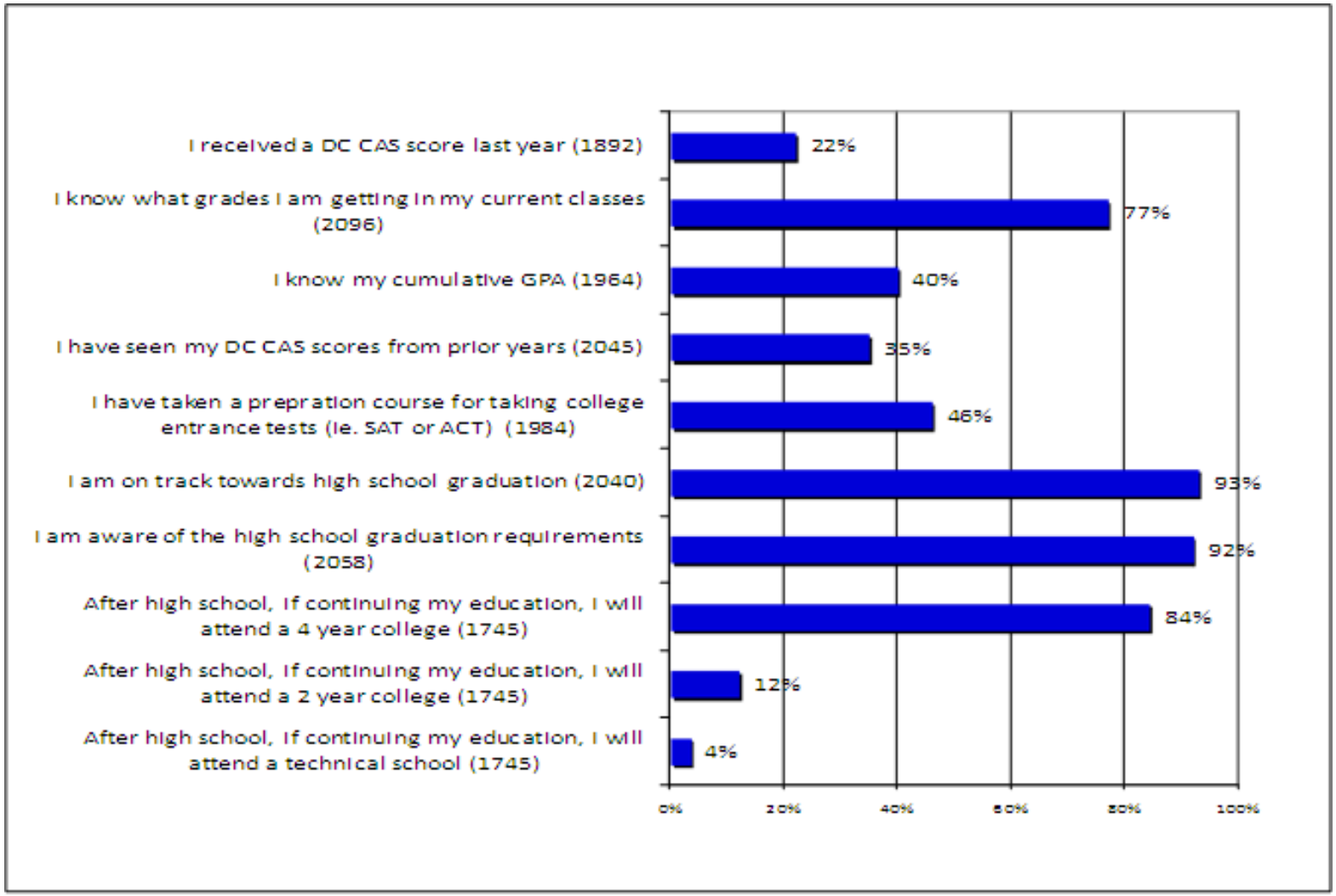
Is Discipline Enforced Equitably?



How Well Are You Interacting With Your School?

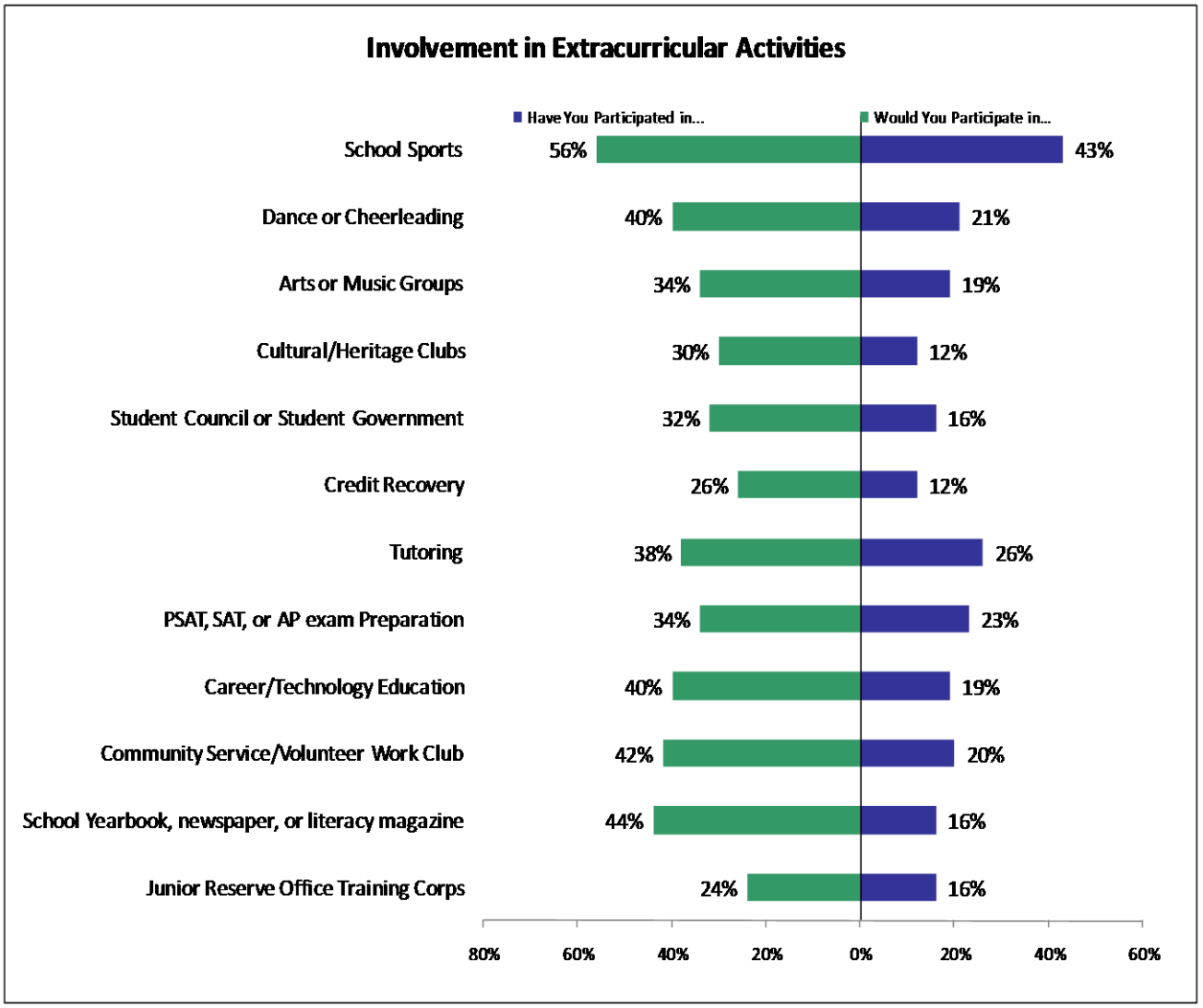


How Prepared Are DCPS Students To Be High Achievers?*



*Only 9-12 Graders were asked these questions.
DCPS graduation requirements can be found online at http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/highschool

Could DCPS Schools Provide More Extra-Curricular Activities?



If you have any additional questions please contact The Office of Data and Accountability.